

**Claim Amendments and Listing of the Claims:**

Please amend claims 1-11 and 18-19 as follows:

1. (Currently amended)      A ~~Blackjack~~ blackjack variation card game apparatus comprising:

(a)    one or more conventional decks of cards, each having a plurality of individual playing cards, each of the individual playing cards having a back, a face, a face suit including one of Hearts, Diamonds, Clubs and Spades, and an associated face value including one of two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, Jack, Queen, King and Ace; and

(b)    a set of rules for the card game, the rules including:

(i)    removing all cards having a face value of ten from the one or more conventional decks of cards;

(ii)   each player placing a wager in order to play the game;

(iii)   dealing one card to each player face-up and one card to a dealer face-up;

(iv)   dealing another card to each player face-up and one card to the dealer face-down; and

(v)    paying each player having blackjack two times the respective player's wager, if the dealer does not have blackjack, blackjack being a condition when two cards add up to twenty-one.

2. (Currently amended)      The blackjack variation card game apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rules further comprise:

(vi) permitting each player to surrender after receiving only two cards in exchange for a portion of the respective player's wager.

3. (Currently amended) The blackjack variation card game apparatus of claim 2, wherein the portion is one-half of the respective player's wager.

4. (Currently amended) The blackjack variation card game apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rules further comprise:

(vi) requiring the dealer to take another card when the dealer has a combination of cards forming a soft seventeen, soft seventeen being a condition when an Ace counts as an eleven instead of a one.

5. (Currently amended) The blackjack variation card game apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rules further comprise:

(vi) requiring the dealer to stand when the dealer has a combination of cards forming a soft seventeen, soft seventeen being a condition when an Ace counts as an eleven instead of a one.

6. (Currently amended) The blackjack variation card game apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rules further comprise:

(vi) each player drawing additional cards or standing based on the individual player's discretion or until a total of the face value of the player's cards exceeds twenty-one;

(vii) the dealer turning over the face-down card and then drawing additional cards until a total of the face value of the dealer's cards is equal to or greater than seventeen or until the total of the face value of the dealer's cards exceeds twenty-one;

(viii) the dealer collecting the wager of each player having a total face value of cards less than the dealer's total face value of cards or having a total face value of cards in excess of twenty-one; and

(ix) the dealer paying out one times the wager of a player having a total face value of cards greater than the dealer's total face value and less than or equal to twenty-one but not having blackjack.

7. (Currently amended) The blackjack variation card game apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more conventional decks of cards include a plurality of conventional decks of cards.

8. (Currently amended) A ~~Blackjack~~ blackjack variation card game apparatus comprising:

(a) one or more conventional decks of cards, each having a plurality of individual playing cards, each of the individual playing cards having a back, a face, a face suit including one of Hearts, Diamonds, Clubs and Spades, and an associated face value including one of two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, Jack, Queen, King and Ace; and

(b) a set of rules for the card game, the rules including:

(i) removing all cards having a face value of ten from the one or more conventional decks of cards;

- (ii) each player placing a first wager and a second wager, separately;
- (iii) dealing one card to each player face-up for a respective player's first hand and ~~[[one]]~~ a first card to a dealer face-up for a dealer's first hand;
- (iv) dealing another card to each player face-up for the respective player's first hand; ~~and~~
- (v) paying each player having blackjack in the respective player's first hand two times the respective player's first wager when the dealer's face-up card in the dealer's first hand is not an Ace, Jack, Queen or King, blackjack being a condition when two cards add up to twenty-one;
- (vi) each player drawing additional cards for the respective player's first hand or standing based on the individual player's discretion or until a total of the face value of the player's cards in the respective player's first hand exceeds twenty-one;
- (vii) after each of the players is done drawing additional cards for the respective player's first hand, the dealer drawing additional cards for the dealer's first hand until a total of the face value of the dealer's cards in the dealer's first hand is equal to or greater than seventeen or until the total of the face value of the dealer's cards in the dealer's first hand exceeds twenty-one;
- (viii) the dealer collecting the first wager of each player having a total face value of cards in the respective player's first hand less than the dealer's total face value of cards in the dealer's first hand or having a total face value of cards in the respective player's first hand in excess of twenty-one; and
- (ix) the dealer paying out one times the first wager of each player having a total face value of cards in the respective player's first hand greater than the dealer's total face value of cards in the dealer's first hand and less than or equal to twenty-one but not having blackjack.

9. (Currently amended) ~~The card game of claim 8, wherein the rules further~~  
~~comprise:~~ A blackjack variation card game apparatus comprising:

(a) one or more conventional decks of cards, each having a plurality of individual playing cards, each of the individual playing cards having a back, a face, a face suit including one of Hearts, Diamonds, Clubs and Spades, and an associated face value including one of two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, Jack, Queen, King and Ace; and

(b) a set of rules for the card game, the rules including:

(i) removing all cards having a face value of ten from the one or more conventional decks of cards;

(ii) each player placing a first wager and a second wager, separately;

(iii) dealing one card to each player face-up for a respective player's first hand and a first card to a dealer face-up for a dealer's first hand;

(iv) dealing another card to each player face-up for the respective player's first hand;

(v) paying each player having blackjack in the respective player's first hand two times the respective player's first wager when the dealer's face-up card in the dealer's first hand is not an Ace, Jack, Queen or King, blackjack being a condition when two cards add up to twenty-one;

(vi) each player drawing additional cards for the respective player's first hand or standing based on the individual player's discretion or until a total of the face value of the player's cards in the respective player's first hand exceeds twenty-one;

(vii) after each of the players is done drawing additional cards for the respective player's first hand, the dealer drawing additional cards for the dealer's first hand until a total of the face value of the dealer's cards in the dealer's first hand is equal to or greater than seventeen or until the total of the face value of the dealer's cards in the dealer's first hand exceeds twenty-one;

(viii) the dealer collecting the first wager of each player having a total face value of cards in the respective player's first hand less than the dealer's total face value of cards in the dealer's first hand or having a total face value of cards in the respective player's first hand in excess of twenty-one;

(ix) the dealer paying out one times the first wager of each player having a total face value of cards in the respective player's first hand greater than the dealer's total face value of cards in the dealer's first hand and less than or equal to twenty-one but not having blackjack;

(x) discarding all of the player's cards in the players' first hands and all of the dealer's cards in the dealer's first hand except the first card dealt to the dealer;

(xi) dealing one card to each player face-up for a respective player's second hand;

(xii) dealing another card to each player face-up for the respective player's second hand; and

(xiii) paying each player having blackjack two times the respective player's second wager when the dealer's face-up card is not an Ace, Jack, Queen or King, the dealer's first face-up card also being part of the dealer's second hand;

(xiv) each player drawing additional cards for the respective player's second hand or standing based on the individual player's discretion or until a total of the face value of the player's cards in the respective player's second hand exceeds twenty-one;

(xv) the dealer drawing additional cards for the dealer's second hand until a total of the face value of the dealer's cards in the dealer's second hand is equal to or greater than seventeen or until the total of the face value of the dealer's cards in the dealer's second hand exceeds twenty-one;

(xvi) the dealer collecting the second wager of each player having a total face value of cards in the respective player's second hand less than the dealer's total face value of cards in the dealer's second hand or having a total face value of cards in the respective player's second hand in excess of twenty-one; and

(xvii) the dealer paying out one times the second wager of each player having a total face value of cards in the respective player's second hand greater than the dealer's total face value of cards in the dealer's second hand and less than or equal to twenty-one but not having blackjack.

10. (Currently amended) The blackjack variation card game apparatus of claim 8, wherein the one or more conventional decks of cards include a plurality of conventional decks of cards.

11. (Currently amended) A method of playing a ~~Blackjack~~ blackjack variation card game in accordance with a set of rules, the card game including one or more conventional decks of cards, each having a plurality of individual playing cards, each of the individual playing cards having a back, a face, an associated face suit including one of Hearts, Diamonds, Clubs and Spades, and an associated face value including one of Ace, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, Jack, Queen and King, the method comprising:

(a) removing all cards having a face value of ten from the one or more conventional decks of cards;

(b) each player placing a wager;

- (c) dealing one card to each player face-up and one card to a dealer face-up;
- (d) dealing another card to each player face-up and another card to the dealer face-down; and
- (e) paying each player having blackjack two times the respective player's wager, if the dealer does not have blackjack, blackjack being a condition when two cards add up to twenty-one.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

- (f) permitting each player to surrender after receiving only two cards in exchange for a portion of the respective player's wager.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the portion is one-half of the respective player's wager.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

- (f) requiring the dealer to take another card when the dealer has a combination of cards forming a soft seventeen, soft seventeen being a condition when an Ace counts as an eleven instead of a one.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

- (f) requiring the dealer to stand when the dealer has a combination of cards forming a soft seventeen, soft seventeen being a condition when an Ace counts as an eleven instead of a one.



16. (Original) The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

(f) each player drawing additional cards or standing based on the individual player's discretion or until a total of the face value of the player's cards exceeds twenty-one;

(g) the dealer turning over the face-down card and then drawing additional cards until a total of the face value of the dealer's cards is equal to or greater than seventeen or until the total of the face value of the dealer's cards exceeds twenty-one;

(h) the dealer collecting the wager of each player having a total face value of cards less than the dealer's total face value of cards or having a total face value of cards in excess of twenty-one; and

(i) the dealer paying out one times the wager of a player having a total face value of cards greater than the dealer's total face value and less than or equal to twenty-one but not having blackjack.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the one or more conventional decks of cards include a plurality of conventional decks of cards.

18. (Currently amended) A method of playing a blackjack variation card game in accordance with a set of rules, the card game including one or more conventional decks of cards, each having a plurality of individual playing cards, each of the individual playing cards having a back, a face, an associated face suit including one of Hearts, Diamonds, Clubs and Spades, and an associated face value including one of Ace, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, Jack, Queen and King, the method comprising:

- (a) removing all cards having a face value of ten from the one or more conventional decks of cards;
- (b) each player placing a first wager and a second wager, separately;
- (c) dealing one card to each player face-up for a respective player's first hand and ~~[[one]]~~ a first card to a dealer face-up for a dealer's first hand;
- (d) dealing another card to each player face-up for the respective player's first hand;
- (e) paying each player having blackjack in the respective player's first hand two times the respective player's first wager ~~[[, if]]~~ when the dealer does not have blackjack dealers's face-up card in the dealer's first hand is not an Ace, Jack, Queen or King, blackjack being a condition when two cards add up to twenty-one;
- (f) each player drawing additional cards for the respective player's first hand or standing based on the individual player's discretion or until a total of the face value of the player's cards in the respective player's first hand exceeds twenty-one;
- (g) after each of the dealer players is done drawing additional cards for the respective player's first hand, the dealer drawing additional cards for the dealer's first hand until a total of the face value of the dealer's cards in the dealer's first hand is equal to or greater than seventeen or until the total of the face value of the dealer's cards in the dealer's first hand exceeds twenty-one;
- (h) the dealer collecting the first wager of each player having a total face value of cards in the respective player's first hand less than the dealer's total face value of cards in the dealer's first hand or having a total face value of cards in the respective player's first hand in excess of twenty-one; and

(i) the dealer paying out one times the first wager of each player having a total face value of cards in the respective player's first hand greater than the dealer's total face value of cards in the dealer's first hand and less than or equal to twenty-one but not having blackjack.

19. (Currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 18, further comprising:~~ A method of playing a blackjack variation card game in accordance with a set of rules, the card game including one or more conventional decks of cards, each having a plurality of individual playing cards, each of the individual playing cards having a back, a face, an associated face suit including one of Hearts, Diamonds, Clubs and Spades, and an associated face value including one of Ace, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, Jack, Queen and King, the method comprising:

(a) removing all cards having a face value of ten from the one or more conventional decks of cards;

(b) each player placing a first wager and a second wager, separately;

(c) dealing one card to each player face-up for a respective player's first hand and a first card to a dealer face-up for a dealer's first hand;

(d) dealing another card to each player face-up for the respective player's first hand;

(e) paying each player having blackjack in the respective player's first hand two times the respective player's first wager when the dealer's face-up card in the dealer's first hand is not an Ace, Jack, Queen or King, blackjack being a condition when two cards add up to twenty-one;

(f) each player drawing additional cards for the respective player's first hand or standing based on the individual player's discretion or until

a total of the face value of the player's cards in the respective player's first hand exceeds twenty-one;

(g) after each of the players is done drawing additional cards for the respective player's first hand, the dealer drawing additional cards for the dealer's first hand until a total of the face value of the dealer's cards in the dealer's first hand is equal to or greater than seventeen or until the total of the face value of the dealer's cards in the dealer's first hand exceeds twenty-one;

(h) the dealer collecting the first wager of each player having a total face value of cards in the respective player's first hand less than the dealer's total face value of cards in the dealer's first hand or having a total face value of cards in the respective player's first hand in excess of twenty-one;

(i) the dealer paying out one times the first wager of each player having a total face value of cards in the respective player's first hand greater than the dealer's total face value of cards in the dealer's first hand and less than or equal to twenty-one but not having blackjack;

(j) discarding all of the player's cards in the players' first hands and all of the dealer's cards in the dealer's first hand except the first card dealt to the dealer;

(k) dealing one card to each player face-up for a respective player's second hand;

(l) dealing another card to each player face-up for the respective player's second hand;

(m) paying each player having blackjack two times the respective player's second wager when the dealer's face-up card is not an Ace, Jack, Queen or King, the dealer's first face-up card also being part of the dealer's second hand;

(n) each player drawing additional cards for the respective player's second hand or standing based on the individual player's discretion or until a total of the face value of the player's cards in the respective player's second hand exceeds twenty-one;

(o) the dealer drawing additional cards for the dealer's second hand until a total of the face value of the dealer's cards in the dealer's second hand is equal to or greater than seventeen or until the total of the face value of the dealer's cards in the dealer's second hand exceeds twenty-one;

(p) the dealer collecting the second wager of each player having a total face value of cards in the respective player's second hand less than the dealer's total face value of cards in the dealer's second hand or having a total face value of cards in the respective player's second hand in excess of twenty-one; and

(q) the dealer paying out one times the second wager of each player having a total face value of cards in the respective player's second hand greater than the dealer's total face value of cards in the dealer's second hand and less than or equal to twenty-one but not having blackjack.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein the one or more conventional decks of cards include a plurality of conventional decks of cards.